

This bill changes the laws regarding emergency services. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Specifies that a political subdivision of the state cannot prohibit any first responder from engaging in any political activity while off duty and not in uniform, from being a candidate for elected or appointed public office, or from holding the office unless the political activity or candidacy is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law. Currently, an employee of the Kansas City Police Department is prohibited from soliciting any assessment, contribution, or payment for any political purpose from any other employee and from soliciting for any purpose in any building or room occupied for the discharge of the official duties of the department. The bill repeals these provisions and specifies that an employee of the department is not allowed to solicit for any political purpose in any building or room occupied for the discharge of the official duties of the department. The provision prohibiting an employee of the department from directly or indirectly giving, paying, lending, or contributing any part of his or her salary, compensation, money, or other valuable thing to any person on account of or to be applied to the promotion of any political party, political club, or any other political purpose is repealed. The provision prohibiting an employee of the department from being a member or an official of any political party committee or being a ward committeeman or committeewoman is repealed. Currently, an employee of the department cannot solicit any person to vote for or against any candidate for public office or poll precincts or be connected with other similar political work on behalf of any political organization, party, or candidate. The bill prohibits these activities only while the employee is on duty or wearing the official department uniform;

(2) Increases the maximum salary that may be paid to the chief of police and officers of the Kansas City Police Department;

(3) Requires any member of the Police Retirement System of St. Louis who becomes permanently unable to perform the duties of a police officer as a result of an injury or illness not exclusively caused or induced by the actual performance of his or her official duties or by his or her own negligence to be retired by the Board of Police Commissioners upon certification by the medical board of the retirement system after having completed at least five years of creditable service once the retirement system's actuarial valuation is at least 80% as required by Section 105.660, RSMo, and the certification by the medical board of the retirement system upon application of the board or any successor body. Currently, a member must be retired by the Board of Police Commissioners upon

certification by the medical director of the retirement system, the application of the member or the board, and the approval of the board of trustees of the retirement system and after the member has completed at least 10 years of creditable service. The bill defines "medical board" as a board of three physicians of different disciplines appointed by the trustees of the police retirement board who are responsible for arranging and passing upon all medical examinations required to determine disability retirement eligibility. The bill modifies the requirements that determine if the board of police commissioners should retire a member in active service if he or she is permanently unable to perform all the essential job functions of a police officer as established by the board or any successor body;

(4) Includes the taxes imposed on sales pursuant to Section 650.399 for emergency communication systems in St. Louis County for redevelopment plans and projects approved by ordinance after August 28, 2013, to those funds that are not required to be deposited in specified segregated accounts within the special allocation fund by municipal financial officers;

(5) Allows a person to be certified by the Department of Health and Senior Services as a community paramedic if he or she is currently certified as a paramedic; has successfully completed a community paramedic certification program from a college, university, or educational institution that has been approved by the department or accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the department; and completes an application form. A community paramedic must practice in accordance with the protocols and supervisory standards established by the medical director and must provide the services of a health care plan if the plan has been developed by the patient's physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant and the patient isn't receiving the same services from another provider. An ambulance service must enter into a written contract to provide community paramedic services in another ambulance service area, and the contract may be for an indefinite period of time as long as it includes at least a 60-day cancellation notice by either ambulance service. A person cannot hold himself or herself out as a community paramedic or provide the services of the position unless he or she is certified by the department and the medical director has approved the implementation of the community paramedic program;

(6) Exempts fire protection districts in Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Cole, St. Francois, and Taney counties from the provision prohibiting a person from holding the office of fire protection district director while holding any lucrative office or employment under the state or any of its political subdivisions;

(7) Changes the filing fee for a candidate for a fire protection district board of director member from \$10 to a fee of up to the amount equal to the filing fee for a candidate for state representative; and

(8) Specifies that when the City of DeSoto annexes property located within a fire protection district, the district is to continue to provide fire and emergency medical services to the annexed property. The city must pay the fire protection district an amount equal to the tax that the district would have collected on all taxable property included within the annexed area. Currently, when certain cities annex property located within the boundaries of a fire protection district, the city takes over the fire protection service for that property, and the district can no longer collect taxes on the property.